



STATE OF DELAWARE
Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission

September 11, 2009

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time: September 11, 2009 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Appoquinimink State Service Center

In Attendance:

- **Commissioners:** Mr. Malcolm Cochran, Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen, Ms. Tania Culley, Ms. Marjorie Hershberger, Dr. Kathy Janvier, Dr. Amanda Kay, Ms. Judith Ann Moore, Ms. Leslie Newman, Ms. Marie Renzi, Dr. Kevin Sheahan, Dr. Phillip Shlossman, Ms. Bridget Buckaloo, Associate Secretary Nancy Wilson.
- **Proxies:** Mr. Jim Adams, Judge Joelle Hitch, Ms. Mary Kate McLaughlin
- **Staff:**
Anne Pedrick, MS, Executive Director
Ashlee Starratt, CDR Specialist
Michael Brown, Office Manager
Angela Birney, Records Technician

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 PM by Commission Chair, Dr. Colmorgen. A quorum was established with 18 members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from April 24, 2009, were approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

Abusive Head Trauma Education Program:

Marj Hershberger presented to the Commission a brief presentation on the Abusive Head Trauma Education that is being offered throughout Delaware's hospitals. The program is funded by a grant through Astra-Zeneca and supported by the Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission. The objective of this program is for nurses to be able to define abusive head trauma and understand that it is a preventable injury through a hospital-based educational program. The six key elements of abusive head trauma are reviewed with special attention to crying behaviors.¹ The program also teaches how nurses will educate parents on abusive head trauma.

Shaken Baby Syndrome ("SBS") is a violent form of child abuse that accounts for the majority of severe head injuries in children less than one year of age. SBS is the most common cause of mortality and long term disability due to child abuse. Nationally 1,400 infants are hospitalized, of which one in four will die from their injuries. The remaining 65-80% will have severe neurological damage (JAMA 2003). In 2004, SBS resulted in 1,500 hospitalizations. Of those 1,500 children, 25% died from their injuries. The average victim of SBS is a three to six month old. Males have a greater chance of being shaken than females and twins have a higher chance of being shaken than a single child. In Delaware, from 2005 to 2009, thirteen abusive head trauma cases were identified. Of those thirteen cases, seven were triggered from the child crying.

Injuries associated with SBS are known as the "Classic Triad," which consists of retinal hemorrhages, brain tissue edema and injury, and intracranial hemorrhage/subdural hemotoma. In addition, it is also common for the child to suffer from rib fractures, skull fractures, and bucket-handle fractures. The consequences of SBS are mild to acute residual effects, severe neurological damage, and death.

The video, *Portrait of a Promise*, is viewed by the parent(s). This video follows three families and their difficulty in coping with the consequences of Shaken Baby Syndrome. After the video is viewed, the parent(s) fill out a questioner and voluntarily sign a commitment statement. This statement is used for follow-up and tracking for cases that might be reviewed by the Panels. The seven week follow-up is to determine if the program is being implemented consistently in every hospital, to determine if the parent(s) of abusive victims have participated in the program, and to assess the success of the program.

¹ The six key elements of the abusive head trauma program are as follows: the program is hospital based, universal, targets not only the mother but the father, provides education in different forms, information is separate from any other education that the parent is receiving, and parents sign, voluntarily, a commitment statement.

FIMR Case Reviews:

Anne Pedrick, the Executive Director, asked the Commission to allow FIMR to review cases based on randomization. It was asked that this review be piloted for the Fiscal Year of 2010, beginning July 1st. All cases prior to June 30, 2009, will still need to be reviewed. To prove validity, it was recommended that a selection of odd verse even, for a year that has already been reviewed, be compared to see if the results are replicated. A motion was made and seconded for the FIMR to review cases based on randomization by odd verses even.

Executive Director Report:

Staff:

Ashlee Starratt is the new Child Death Review Specialist.

Annual Report:

The Executive Committee asked that it be allowed to vote on the final annual report, so that the report can be distributed in November. If the commission votes and gives the authority to the Executive Committee then it should fall within statutory guidelines. The report will be brought back to the Commission at November's meeting for comment. A motion was made and seconded for the Executive Committee to approve the final version of the annual report.

Budget:

The budget was reduced by \$24,700.00. \$12,500.00 was due to the 2.5 percent cut for personnel costs.

Cribs for Kids:

CDNDSC, Division of Public Health (DPH), and A.I. duPont Hospital have also agreed to partner and form a chapter with the National Program "*Cribs for Kids*". The program is laid out so that A.I. duPont Hospital will be the referral/intake source, CDNDSC will store the cribs, and DPH will deliver the cribs to the families in need. In order to receive a crib the family must first receive the safe sleeping education. Training will be completed by September 29th for the Department of Public Health nurses and the program will be operational on October 1, 2009.

The Infant Safe Sleeping Subcommittee was able to partner with A.I. duPont Hospital for Children, Delaware SIDS Affiliate and CDNDSC to compile funds in order to purchase billboards. These funds have allowed the Subcommittee to purchase four billboards that will run for two months. The billboards will be located in southern and northern Delaware, Route 13, Route 202, and Kirkwood Highway. The billboard campaign will start the first Monday of October.

It was brought to the Commissions attention about the need for car seats. The Consumer Product Safety Act has implemented a new law regarding the resale of car seats. Safe Kids is putting together a subcommittee with Maternal Child Health representatives to educate parents on the proper use and installation of car seats. Safe Kids has a budget and safety seats available.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect for Medical Physicians:

First training will be held on October 22, 2009 at Wilmington Hospital.

FIMR Bereavement Conference:

Conference will take place on September 17, 2009, and will be held at Del Tech.

CPAC and CDNDSC Joint Conference:

March 24-25, 2010, is the Joint Conference between CPAC and CDNDSC. Family Court has provided a federal grant to fund the multi-disciplinary conference.

CDNDSC Website:

The website will be revamped once the annual report is complete.

Other Business:

There was no other business discussed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to exit Executive Session.

Upon return to public session, a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn at 4:06 pm.